

### CANDLE AT THE WINDOW

DECEMBER SERVICE OF BLESSING AND TRANSITION  
Sunday Dec 4, 10:00 AM Rev. Sarah Pirtle and Gregory Hayes.

Don't miss this service. Gregory Hayes will play the organ for prelude, reflection, and offertory, and for hymns. Sarah will lead a service entitled, "Blessing the Past, Present and Future of the Village Church." She invites people to bring a song or reading to share. This will be a ceremony of transition as Sarah retires as pastor. She will pass along blessings and become a bridge person who continues to care about the Village Church. Highlights of the history will be included such as the work of Henrietta Nahmer who organized a Women's Suffrage Convention with luminaries Lucy Stone and Julia Ward Howe that packed the church.

The hymn "Wonders Still the World Shall Witness" was written by Sarah's childhood minister Dr. Jacob Trapp who inspired her ministry and this will be included, and she thanks him and speaks of his legacy. We hope you can attend.

### New Portrait of William Cullen Bryant at the Library

The Bryant Free Library is pleased to announce the purchase of a beautiful painting of William Cullen Bryant. Librarian Mark DeMaranville is always combing through the internet looking for items relating to Bryant that he could add to the library's collection. He found this painting for sale from an old book dealer in Sheffield, MA, and was struck by its lifelike portrayal of the famous poet and founder of our library. The Board of Trustees agreed with him that the painting belonged here. Mark contacted the owners and after explaining who he was and where the painting would go, the owners reduced the price. They were delighted that the painting would go to Bryant's library. We only needed to come up with \$2500. John Maruskin, chair of the Board of Trustees, announced the need for donations at the 150th anniversary celebration on August 14. We collected seven hundred dollars over the next weeks, and one generous person offered to donate the rest.

The painting is now in our possession, and we invite you to come to the Bryant Free Library and view it. And of course take out a book while you are here.



### Donations to the Church

To contribute to the Village Church, click on the "Donate" button on our website <https://cummingtonvillagechurch.org> where you may donate electronically via PayPal or credit/debit card. Please also consider setting up recurring payments through your bank's online banking service as this incurs no fees by the church. Thank you for helping support the Village Church

### Quaker Meeting

Since the 4th Sunday of the month, when we usually have our Quaker meeting, falls on Christmas this year, there will be no meeting in December.

Also the 4th Sunday in January, 29 January 2023, is Ton Whiteside's last service at the Plainfield Church, and we may cancel the Quaker meeting in his honor unless someone wants to clerk the meeting on that date.

Yours in Hope and Peace,  
Tim

### Aging Gracefully in the Hilltowns

This is a Community discussion group, sponsored by the Council on Aging, focusing on Living Fully, Aging Gracefully, and Befriending Death, open to residents of the Hilltown area.

*We talk about it all here, the good, the bad and the ugly! It's a chance to share challenges and solutions, hopes and fears about aging well and living fully. Practical or philosophical, funny or sad - often both at the same time. Come join us!*

We meet via zoom—the second Tuesday of each month from 1–3 PM. If you would like to join us online please send an email beforehand to Annie or Lucy.

For further information please contact: Wynne or Lucy 634 5576, [wynlucy@gmail.com](mailto:wynlucy@gmail.com) or [Annieannie@crocker.com](mailto:Annieannie@crocker.com)

### The Holiday Gift Program

The Holiday Gift Program, this year will provide gifts for children and grandchildren, filling requests for children from infancy through 17, for families that participate in the Hilltown food pantry. Supporters of the program, generally spend about \$50 per child. If you are interested in buying gifts for a child or a family, or wish to make a monetary donation, please contact: Pat Keith 413-563-1981 or Hilary Costa 339-203-5535. Requests from the families will be submitted by November 11th and we ask that gifts be purchased by Sunday, December 18th. If you are purchasing gifts, we will get you the information about wrapping, etc., once we have received the requests.

**DIRECTOR AND ACCOMPANIST**  
**AMY RENAK**

**LYNN WINSOR, FLUTE**

**HILLTOWN CHORAL SOCIETY**

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**Sunday, December 4, 2022 at 3:00 pm**

**Chesterfield Community Center**

**Top of the Hill in Chesterfield next to the church**

**This is our 64th year singing as a group**

**This will be our very last Concert.**  
**Please join us.**

**Free concert, Fragrance Free Please**

### Yoga With Darlene

I invite you to join us, women and men, for yoga on Fridays from 8:45–10 AM at the Village Church on Main Street in Cummington. Contact me at [Darleneamygr@gmail.com](mailto:Darleneamygr@gmail.com) or 413-210-1038 for more information.

**Merry Christmas**  
**חַג מִנְחָה**  
**Happy Kwanzaa**  
**JOYOUS SOLSTICE**

*Best Wishes for a Happy Holiday Season*  
*from all of us at Village Church and the Goodwill Messenger*



You'll find products from some of our familiar summer vendors: sturdy winter vegetables, warmth giving meats and eggs, fresh micro greens, sustaining breads, and fancy pastries and coffee.



PLUS Gifts to bring holiday and enduring joy: paintings, books, and cards, yarn, house plants, toys and decorations, preserves and pickles, leather creations, jewelry, and forged utensils. Covet or share the creative talents of our area farmers, crafters and artists.

**Ashfield Town Hall, 1st and 2nd floors  
Saturdays Nov. 19 - Dec. 17  
10AM to 1PM**

## Art Sessions

We are a group of people who enjoy getting together and painting. There is no formal teaching but there are people in the class that can offer advice on a particular challenge. Tables and chairs provided. Five dollars covers Wednesday class 11-3 at the Cummington church. Bring a lunch and use the back entry then turn left. All mediums welcome. Contact Barbara Konieczny if you are interested at 413-387-3517 or 634-2209. Thanks and hope to see you there.

barbarajkonieczny@gmail.com

## 16th ANNUAL HILLTOWN HOLIDAY HOB-NOB

**Saturday, 3 Dec, 2022, 10AM-1PM**

**Village Church**

**32 Main Street, Cummington**

Come hobnob with your neighbors at this community holiday gift re-exchange. Have fun with your commitment to more sharing and less consumption. It can even help you clean out your closets and save money! Come with GIFT quality items that you already have but do not need, are not using or even plain just don't want. Books, toys, games, music, art, gadgets, clothing, etc. are all welcome. They don't have to be perfect or in a box, you just have to know they would make a great gift for someone else. They will be displayed for others to choose as a gift they would like to give for the holidays. And of course, while you are there, pick out anything you see that you might like to give. All items are given and taken freely without money. Bring a small plate of goodies to share if you like. Please no plastic disposables, though. We will begin to accept donations on Saturday, November, 26, they can be left in the back entryway of the church.

If you have a question or want to drop off items for re-gifting in advance, email HilltownCROW@protonmail.com or phone 634-5031 x2

Sponsored by: [HilltownCROW ReUse Project](#)

## Friday Night Café

The Friday Night Café will be returning in January. The performances will be held in the sanctuary of the church because there is more space for people to maintain distance. The first session will run from Jan.-June, and the second session from Sept.-Nov. Shows will be on the second and fourth Fridays each month from 7:00-9:00.

Once again brought to you by the friendly folks at the Village Church who believe music can be a powerful force for building community.

See you in January!

## Dump News Reminder

Free Covid test kits are still available at the Transfer Station. Take It or Leave It continues to be a good place to leave good, usable items and a place to find just what you might (or might not) need! Please no broken/dirty items. The Book Bin is where to drop books of any sort that you feel might not be useful in the Take It area. Used textiles, clothes, sheets, etc. and shoes are now accepted in the Textile Bin, they don't need to be separated but they must be left in a plastic bag.

Metal—a fee for disposal of metal will no longer charged. Recycling metal will now be handled by a new vendor and the town will be paid for the metal rather than to have to pay for the service. This new program is due to the hard work of Bob Ely our Transfer Station Manager.

Mattress—All sizes will no longer be accepted at the Cummington Transfer Station. They will have to be delivered to the Williamsburg Transfer Station. For more information call: 413-268-8405. The address is: 27 Mountain Street, Williamsburg (the road to Whately)

The Goodwill Messenger, deadline for the January 2023 issue is December 27, 2022. Any personal news, an event, a business to promote with a paid advertisement or anything else worth noting please send to John at mrblooz@verizon.net or Pat at patakeith@gmail.com, mail to VCC, PO Box 76, Cummington, MA 01026 or leave it in the drop box, marked GWM located in the back entryway of the Village Church. Please be sure to include all the details, and a contact number in case we have questions.

## Road Closures 2022-2023

At their November 10, 2022, Selectboard meeting, the closing of the following roads from December 1, 2022, to May 1, 2023, or from first snow until mud season is over was approved:

Stage Road from house number 132 to 200

Trow Road from House number 43 to 88

Tirrell Hill from House number 3 to 34

River Road – All

West Hill – All

Bryant Road from Grout Road to Potash Hill Extension

# Help Wanted

## Snow removal needed

The Village Church is in need of someone to clear the front sidewalk, the path to the front steps and the accessible walkway. Teenagers, as well as adults are welcome and encouraged to call Conrad at 634-5353 to express interest and get more information.

## Village Church Has Space to Rent

One of the many wonderful things about the Village Church is its proximity to many neighboring hilltowns and our east and west cities, Northampton and Pittsfield. We are in the middle, and we have easy, well-lit parking. We like to keep our building busy and serving the community by offering rental space for individuals, families, and groups. For one event or an ongoing program we can offer you a large space with or without a kitchen, an office, and a beautiful sanctuary with good acoustics, all accessible. For more information call or text Scott at 413-320-6544.



**Tuesdays 10-4**

**Fridays 12-4**

**and by Chance or Appointment**

**Supporting wildlife rehabilitation and conservation in the Hilltowns**

**790 Berkshire Trail, Cummington**

**(Rt. 9, just west of Packard St.)**

***Donations greatly appreciated but first.***

**Leave a message at**

**HilltownCROW@protonmail.com**

**or 634-5031, extension 2**

**& find us on**

**[facebook.com/thethriftycrow](https://www.facebook.com/thethriftycrow)**

## Homeschool Cooperative

The Village Homeschool Cooperative meets on Mondays at the Village Church. We are a group of 17 kids ages 4-11, led by Susan Warner, Cynthia Jirak and Molly Smith. We like being in the church, it makes a perfect place to play, cook, make and hang out. We ended our last session with a visit from the Expandable Brass Band who accompanied us as we danced with the giant dragon puppet we made named Talon Dreamer Spike. Lincoln Fishman of Sawyer Farm just started off our session to share his love of corn and methods of making tortillas. Jennifer Lee, Barbara Bricker and Sadie Stull are visiting us in the remaining weeks. We invite guests from the community to contact us if you feel you have wisdom and skill to share with the kids.

mollyvirginia@gmail.com

**Mon.-Fri. 7-5**

**Saturday 8-12**

## Cummington Supply, Inc.

**We have your lumber, building supplies, tools, electrical and plumbing supplies, paint and more!**

**18 Main Street, Cummington, MA 01026  
(413)64-8868 (413)634-2118**

